



**COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE
Meeting Summary
April 15, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Michelle Green, Diana Holzberger, Brigid Howe, Linda Janulis, Edward Krauze, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Greg Smith, Barbara Warman

GUESTS PRESENT: Michael Subin, Eleanor Wallace

Michelle Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ACTION: Approval of the summary of the March 18, 2015 full Commission meeting – Motion: Diana Holtzberger; Second: Greg Smith. All in favor.

CHAIRS REPORT: Michelle Green reported that CCC gave testimony at the County Council 2016 budget hearings on WPA and in support of funds reallocation to the CRC budget. WPA funding remains flat in the budget for the third year in a row and there are no funds to implement the WPA Workgroup recommendations.

The CCC Executive Committee met with Director Uma Ahluwalia to discuss the proposed child care bills, amendments, proposals and strategies for the Commission in discussing bills with the County Council members. They discussed that public space could be more coordinated, consolidated and more efficient.

Did the basics of the Commission's discussion get lost? Discussed issues of funding issues and not enough funding for the WPA deficit. It is unclear as to how to find funds and how to move the agenda forward.

With the new child care bill we will need to wait and see what the roles of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and of the Commission will be. There will be 12-18 months to sort it out if the bills go forward.

The bill hearing drew many providers speaking on many issues and in support of the concept of a Child Care Office (Mr. Reimer's bill), but it was unclear what the focus of the group was. It was clear that the child care community is frustrated and some things need to be fixed. The hearing made an impact, but the message will now need to be refined and

fine tuned. Councilmember Elrich had the same message – we are off message and need to be clear in what we want.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programmatic Issues: Barbara Warman reported that they concluded a discussion in the April ½ hour meeting and will begin working on priorities for next year.

Membership: Shaun Rose reported that three new members were appointed, two at this meeting and one to start in May.

Our retreat will be May 20 6-9 pm at MCCA -3204 Tower Oaks Blvd. Suite 320- dinner provided. We will elect officers; please send nominations to Shaun. The Chair will appoint chairs for the committees for next year.

Public Policy: Ed Krause reported that they discussed priorities and prepared for the retreat.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Update on Council child care bills and proposed amendments to both. Commission members met with Councilmember Berliner raising issues with CUPF and the doubling of summer bills for child care in MCPS. Discussed issues with WPA and Public Space.

Discussion re: the proposed Child Care Public Policy Officer. There is a need for a comprehensive framework.

ACTION: Michelle Green and Shaun Rose to draft a letter offering guidance to the Council HHS/ED Committee on the proposed amendments to the child care bills. To be sent to the Council Committee members by email.

UPDATES:

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) - Postponed

State Early Childhood Update – Barbara Andrews reported that the Resource and Referral Network has escaped major cuts proposed and the proposed 8% cut to the network has been restored. We still face a reduction in December when the RTT funds conclude.

A bill was passed at the MD Legislature re: the creation of a Master Plan for professional development for the early childhood field in an effort to determine multiple routes for early childhood teachers and create a larger and stronger workforce. This will be a collaboration between MSDE and the Commission on Higher Education.

A bill on pesticides – affecting Family Child Care homes – did not pass

A bill requiring regulation of provider’s accepting State child care subsidy payments did not pass.

Announcements:

Tour De Cookie is on May 2 - Barbara Andrews needs bakers!

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.